

FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research on channel margin erosion in the GTMNERR can take two main directions: (1) application of the methods used in this study to other areas of the reserve or other time periods or (2) a more in-depth study in the current study area aimed at establishing a stronger correlation between causal factors and erosion rates. Present methods could be extended by using photography from the 1990s, 1980s, 1970s, and 1940s and possibly T-sheet maps created by the United States Coast Survey in the early 1870s before the AICW was created. Such studies could also cover the northern portion of the reserve. More in-depth work aimed at establishing a stronger causal correlation could involve field measurement of wave energy and an attempt to correlate wave energy with fetch, nearshore bathymetric profile, local sediment type, and erosion rates. Such a study could develop a comparison of the net volumes of sediment transported by relatively small but frequent wind waves and larger but less frequent boat wakes.